

Inspection Advisory Supplied-Air Respirator Flow Control Valve

May 19, 2010

MSA World Headquarters
121 Gamma Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-2937
800.MSA.2222
www.MSAnet.com

MSA recently investigated a field report involving the inadvertent separation of the adjustment knob and internal valve components from several constant flow supplied-air respirator flow control valve housings. Our findings indicate that the separations were the result of snap-rings missing from the valve assemblies. If the snap-ring is missing and the adjustment knob is turned 2 to 4 turns counter-clockwise, the threads will completely disengage and the knob and stem will separate from the valve. Should the knob and stem separate during use, the user would experience a loss of air supply.

Our findings confirmed that the 460814 (valve w/Snap-Tite aluminum quick disconnect), 461706 (valve w/Schrader quick disconnect), and 471814 (valve w/ Foster steel) flow control valves (or respirators including these valves) that were shipped from MSA between May 1, 2008 and January 28, 2010 may not contain a snap-ring.

Valve Inspection: If you receive this advisory, it is important that you inspect all potentially affected flow control valves in your possession as indicated below:

1. Remove respirator from use and turn off air supply.
2. Fully open the valve by pushing in and rotating the adjustment knob counter-clockwise:
 - a. If the knob stops rotating after several turns and there is no gap between the knob and valve housing (Fig. A), the snap-ring is in place and the **valve and respirator may be returned to service**.
 - b. If the knob does not stop and continues to unthread, exposing a gap between the knob and the valve housing (Fig. B) or if the knob and stem separate from the housing (Fig. C), the snap-ring is missing and the **valve must be removed from service**.



- Fig. A -
Normal



- Fig. B -
Remove from Service



- Fig. C -
Remove from Service



Replacement Valves: If after performing the above inspection, any valves exhibits a gap between the knob and valve housing or the knob and stem separate from the housing, complete the attached form and fax it to MSA Customer Service at 1-800-967-0398 (U.S. or Canada) or 01-442-227-3943 (Mexico) to obtain replacement valves free of charge.

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MSA regrets any inconvenience that this situation may cause; however, we hope that you will accept our indicated measures to address this potential safety concern. If you have any questions, please contact MSA Customer Service at 1-800-MSA-2222 (U.S. or Canada) or 01-800-672-7222 (Mexico).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles J. Seibel, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Charles J. Seibel, Jr.
Manager of Product Safety



Flow Control Valve Replacement Form

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Complete this form and fax it to MSA Customer Service at 1-800-967-0398 (U.S. or Canada) or 01-442-227-3943 (Mexico). Upon receipt, MSA will ship the appropriate types and quantities of replacement flow control valves to you. We will also send UPS return labels to you for use when returning the affected flow control valves. The shipping will be free of charge.

Contact Name: _____

Company: _____

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Date: _____

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Quick-Disconnect Type</u>	<u>Quantity being Returned</u>
460814	Snap-Tite aluminum	_____
461706	Schrader	_____
471814	Foster steel	_____
TOTAL		_____

Boxes of valves to be returned: _____ Do NOT return belts, breathing tubes, etc.

Weight (lbs.) of each box: _____

Once you receive the UPS return labels, please enclose a completed copy of this form in each box and print "RMA# UCA" on the outside of each box. Ship the valves to MSA via UPS. Please note: If the affected valves are not received within 60 days of ordering the replacement valves, an invoice for the replacement valves will be issued to you. Questions: Please call 1-800-MSA-2222 (U.S./Canada) or 01-800-672-7222 (Mexico).

- MSA use only -

Enter warranty replacement (ZC) using order reason code **UCA** and PO# **Control Valve Replacement**. Enter UPS Return Label(s). In the RMA/PCR field use: **UCA/MSA#** _____ and record tracking #(s) in internal header text. **MSA#** _____. Return Material: Date received _____.